Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 NEA-09 PRS-01

PA-01 USIA-06 /101 W

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R 281500Z JAN 75 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9234 INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE GOI ENERGY EXPERT RISTAGNO FOR IEA

- 1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DOTT. VITTORIO UGO RISTAGNO, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (MININD) DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR HEAVY INDUSTRY AND SOURCES OF ENERGY, CONFIRMED APPROVAL OF HIS MINISTER TO LEAVE GOI FOR POSITION WITH IEA AS DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF OIL MARKET DEVELOPMENTS. DURING TELECON WITH EMBOFF, RISTAGNO STATED HE PLANNED TO LEAVE HIS MINISTRY POSITION ABOUT FEBRUARY 16, AND WOULD TAKE UP HIS DUTIES IN PARIS SOMETIME LATER. HE SAID THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON HIS SUCCESSOR. END UNCLASSIFIED.
- 2. COMMENT: RISTAGNO ALLUDED ONLY PARENTHETICALLY TO PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING HIS RELEASE, BUT EMBASSY ASSUMES THEY WERE SUBSTANTIAL. RISTAGNO IS ONE OF FEW GOI TECHNOCRATS REALLY INFORMED ON ALL ASPECTS ITALIAN ENERGY SITUATION; WHILE LACK OF INDEPENDENT POLITICAL BASE HAS PREVENTED HIM FROM BEING MORE INFLUENTIAL IN POLICY FORMATION, HIS EXPERTISE AND PROFESSIONALISM HAD NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED. REASONS FOR RESIGNATION, APART FROM IEA OPLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORTUNITY, PROBABLY STEM FROM RISTAGNO'S UNHAPPY EXPERIENCES

WITH FORMER MININD DE MITA WHERE RISTAGNO'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CONSISTENTLY IGNORED OR REJECTED IN WHAT MOST SOURCES CONSIDERED UNJUSTIFIED AND INSULTING FASHION.

- 3. RISTAGNO'S REPLACEMENT NOT YET CHOSEN, BUT UNLIKELY TO BE AWARDED TO OTHER THAN PROFESSIONAL FROM WITHIN MININD.
- $4.\ \mbox{IN RELATIONSHIPS}$ WITH EMBASSY, RISTAGNO WAS CONSISTENTLY FRIENDLY, RECEPTIVE AND FORTHCOMING. BIO SUBMISSION BEING PREPARED. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME01245

Document Number: 1975ROME01245 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750031-0415

From: ROME

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750114/aaaaamgb.tel Line Count: 71 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: MorefiRH

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 19 MAY 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: DEPARTURE GOI ENERGY EXPERT RISTAGNO FOR IEA

TAGS: ENRG, IT, IEA, (RISTAGNO, VITTORIO UGO)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006